



# CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

## COST ESTIMATE

March 25, 2005

### **H.R. 30**

### **Samuel B. Moody Bataan Death March Compensation Act**

*As introduced on January 4, 2005*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 30 would entitle survivors of the 1942 Bataan death march to a payment for their time in captivity. CBO estimates that such payments would increase direct spending by \$10 million in 2006 and \$29 million over the 2006-2010 period. The legislation contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 30 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 050 (national defense). For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted before the end of fiscal year 2005.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING</b>						
Estimated Budget Authority	0	10	9	8	1	1
Estimated Outlays	0	10	9	8	1	1

#### **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

The bill would entitle any veteran who was captured at Bataan or Corregidor and survived the Bataan death march to a payment for the veteran's time in captivity. If the veteran is deceased, and if there is an unremarried surviving spouse, the payment would be made to that surviving spouse.

CBO estimates that about 4,500 veterans from the two regions participated in the death

march and survived the war. The Department of Defense would be required to pay \$4 a day for each day spent in captivity, compounded at a rate of 3 percent a year. On average, such veterans spent about three and a half years in captivity, making the payments about \$30,000 per beneficiary in 2005.

CBO estimates that about 60 percent of the 1,700 veterans or surviving spouses still alive would receive payments under the bill because not all potential beneficiaries would learn of the benefit or be able to prove their eligibility. We estimate that all of the payments would occur over the 2006-2010 period, when about 900 beneficiaries would collect benefits, resulting in outlays of \$29 million over that period. CBO estimates that administrative costs to provide this benefit would be negligible.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 30 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

### **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

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